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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

EDGAR N. RUDISILL ET AL.

CASE NO.: SS3161USNA

SERIAL NO.: 09/681,682

GROUP ART UNIT: 1733

FILED: MAY 21, 2001

EXAMINER: BARBARA J. MUSSER

FOR: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR
MAKING MULTI-LAYERED, MULTI-
COMPONENT FILAMENTS

120/1/10
11/30/02

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 14, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by replacing paragraph 0020 with the following paragraph:

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[0200] The polymers are melted into separate molten polymer flow streams using conventional means, such as extruders, and forced through separate distribution manifolds to produce separate planar molten polymer flow streams. The distribution manifolds arrange the molten polymer flow streams into long thin planes of molten polymer, wherein the polymer all along the plane has nearly the same heat history and residence time. It is optimal for the molten polymer stream to have as much as possible the same heat history and residence time in order to minimize degradation of the polymer contacting the manifold walls, which tends to form solidified particles which can plug the spinneret orifices downstream, and/or form less uniform spun filaments. A common distribution manifold is a coat hanger manifold, which is named as such due to its general resemblance (in longitudinal cross section) in form to a coat hanger. Due to the long, thin form of the coat hanger distribution manifold, heat from the walls of the melt spinning beam is transferred through the molten polymer